

outstanding American, who passed away earlier this year.

Dick Reiners was born September 24, 1907, on a small farm east of Lennox, SD, and passed away on January 15, 1995, at his rural home north of Worthing, SD. Throughout his life he was dedicated to his family, his community, and the land in which he lived.

As a father and husband, Dick epitomized the term "family values." He was faithful, honest, and loyal and he passed those values on to his children and grandchildren. As a member of the community, Dick was constantly active in improving the quality of people's lives. He served on numerous boards, including his church, his children's school district, the Farmers Home Administration, and the South Dakota Farmers Union. He was also actively involved in politics and labored tirelessly for the people he believed in.

As a farmer, Dick held a reverence for the land and its capacity for production. He was a hard worker and an eternal optimist.

Dick spoke his mind. He never gave up. He was always a kind and thoughtful man.

During my travels as a U.S. Senator, I am constantly humbled by the people of my State—people like Dick Reiners—and the basic principles by which they live their lives: a love of family, an obligation to community service, and a strong commitment to an honest day's work. Those who knew Dick Reiners learned much from him, and I am honored to say that he was my friend. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 87TH ENGINEER BATTALION (HEAVY PONTOON)

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Army organization in recognition of its distinguished service to this Nation and extraordinary performance during World War II. The 87th Engineer Battalion was the first heavy pontoon battalion activated at Fort Benning, GA, on August 1, 1940. Also trained at Fort Benning, this battalion went ashore at Utah Beach in the Normandy landing to build the bridges needed to liberate France. Among the many rivers that had to be crossed were the Meuse, the Saar, and the Moselle. The 87th Engineers bridged them all.

This brought the 87th Engineer Battalion to the most awesome and difficult of all European rivers, the Rhine. Fifty years ago today, on March 24, 1945, the 87th Engineer Battalion made history when they constructed the longest pontoon bridge in the world across the Rhine River at Oppenheim. Despite shortages of personnel and equipment, the 87th was ordered to move Patton's 3d Army across the Rhine. They built a 1,237 foot span in 13 hours while under constant enemy attack. Their efforts resulted in the establishment of the second American bridgehead across the Rhine and contributed directly to the overall success

of Allied operations. When they were not building bridges, the soldiers of the 87th Engineer Battalion assisted in hauling thousands of tons of critical supplies from the beaches to the interior depots. Their successful accomplishment of this critical mission helped to maintain the Allied momentum throughout the war.

The soldiers of the 87th Engineer Battalion repeatedly distinguished themselves as professional soldiers, technically competent engineers, and great Americans whose performance of duty was outstanding.

For their efforts and impressive successes, it is my privilege to wish the World War II veterans of the 87th Engineer Battalion the best in the years ahead and join the Nation in expressing our heartfelt thanks for their dedication and selfless devotion and service to the United States of America.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY 1995

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, tomorrow marks the 174th anniversary of the opening of the struggle by the Greek people for independence from the Ottoman Empire. I am honored to be a sponsor of the resolution designating tomorrow, March 25, 1995, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.

Greek Independence Day celebrates the independence the Greek people achieved after almost 400 years of foreign control. In all those years of domination and repression, the people of Greece retained their passion for democracy. This passion is alive and well today.

The United States and Greece have a long history of shared democratic ideals and beliefs, when our Founding Fathers designed the American form of government, they took inspiration from the democratic traditions of ancient Greece. Later, Greek patriots in the struggle against the Ottoman Sultan followed the example of the American Revolution in their fight for freedom and their efforts to design their new government.

In this century, Greece has been an outstanding ally and leader in the fight for democracy; 9 percent of all Greeks, gave their lives to help stop the tyranny of Hitler. Together Greece and the United States fought against communism throughout the cold war and together we must work to solve the problems of the post-cold-war era.

On this special occasion, it is fitting to pay tribute to all the contributions that the Greek people have made to American life, both as valuable members of our own society and as members of a nation that was the birthplace of democracy.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to join the Greek American

community as they celebrate the 174th anniversary of the beginning of their revolution for independence from under the yoke of the Ottoman Empire.

I and 47 of my colleagues in the Senate joined together to commemorate this historic event by cosponsoring Senate Resolution 79, a resolution commemorating March 25, 1994, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.

From their first settlement in the 18th century in St. Augustine, FL, to one of the largest Greek communities in America, Astoria, NY, the Greek people have been an influential segment of American society. Their history, culture, language, religion, and of course native culinary artistry, have enriched all of America. Greece has contributed great things in the areas of arts, education, medicine, and philosophy, but no contribution was more precious than that of democracy.

Born in Athens during the age of Pericles and nurtured in the United States, the principles of democracy are now being practiced throughout the world. This new wave of democracy, would never have come to fruition had it not been for Hellenistic political thought. We will always be indebted to Greece for giving us this most precious gift.

AG WEEK

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President. This week is National Ag Week. It is the one week of the year that we take time out to applaud America's farmers for what they give to us every week of the year. Undoubtedly, they are the most progressive, most efficient, and most productive in the world.

American agriculture is an industry to be proud of. America exports more than 43 billion dollar's worth of food products every year—that is a trade surplus of \$17 billion. Agriculture also employs more than 21 million Americans.

But those numbers don't tell the whole story. Every day, Americans eat. So every day, we all depend on the American farmer. We expect the best from our farmers—and they deliver. We have a cheap, wholesome, safe, and dependable food supply. No doubt about it, we as consumers are getting a pretty good deal.

Agriculture has made exciting advances this last year. Most important, GATT and NAFTA have opened up new trade opportunities for American agriculture. Finally, America's farmers will gain access to millions of new customers around the world.

At home, Republicans are leading the charge to reduce the regulatory, paperwork, and tax burdens which depress the farmer's bottom line. As we work to rein in the Federal Government, we will focus on preserving the programs that advance American agriculture in the world market place.